

Council Notes ...

Council President

2004/2005

Nancy McCormick
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Council Vice

President 2004/2005

John P. (Pat) Vaché
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Council Ombudsman of the Month

**October through
November 2004**

Oct: Pat Vaché,
425-883-2314 or
pvache@redmond.gov

Nov: John Resha,
425-881-9616 or
jresha@redmond.gov

Council Committee Chairs -

through 2004/2005

**Parks & Human Services
Committee**

John Resha
425-881-9616
jresha@redmond.gov

**Planning & Public Works
Committee**

John Marchione
425-882-0863
jmachione@redmond.gov

**Public Administration &
Finance Committee**

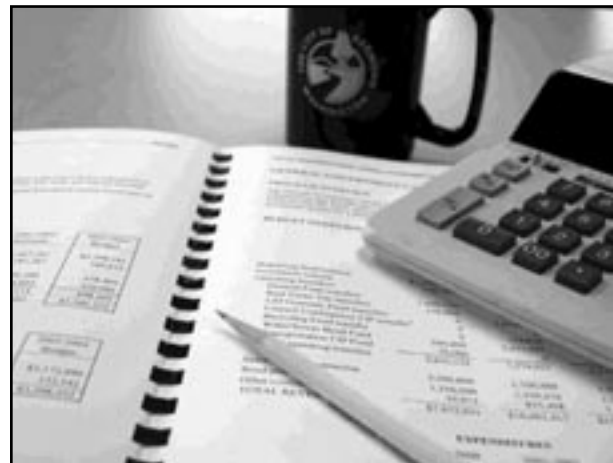
Tom Paine
425-867-9813
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Public Safety Committee

Jim Robinson
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A confluence of events has created a serious fiscal dilemma for the City. Since the beginning of the year, the City Council and the Mayor have been cooperating at an unprecedented level to address the City's financial situation.

A few years ago, our region suffered great economic hardship from the collapse of the dot.com boom and the effects of the 9/11 tragedy. As a result, sales tax revenues in the City fell below the levels of 1999 and 2000 and are forecasted to continue at a lower level through 2005 and 2006. This is notwithstanding the addition of several major retailers in the City.



Despite the fall in revenues, City Council has not authorized property and other tax increases. The City's property tax has increased by 8% over the last ten years, while inflation has grown by 35%. To deal with the resulting budget gap, Redmond City government has instituted a series of belt tightening measures in recent years, including reducing spending, allowing positions to go unfilled, and spending reserved funds set aside from previous years. These events are converging like *The Perfect Storm* to create Redmond's financial quandary.

"These events are converging like The Perfect Storm to create Redmond's financial quandary."

What is becoming clear is that if Redmond City government is to continue providing its citizens and businesses with the same levels of services as in the past, more revenue will be needed and it will need to be authorized by the voters. The largest cost drivers are soaring medical premium costs and negotiated wage increases, along with inflation on all City purchases.

At a July 23 meeting, the City Council and the Mayor agreed that long term planning and sound strategies are needed for the future. Councilmembers and the Mayor struck an agreement in principle to fund City services for 2005 without drastic service cuts and to devise a plan to fund the same service levels for 2006. This plan may include asking citizens to approve an increased property tax. This increase would apply to residential and commercial property alike. If the City Council does decide to ask the citizens to vote on a property tax increase, we will allow enough time for voters to become educated on the issues, so they may make an informed decision.

In the meantime, your elected officials and departmental leaders will continue to scrutinize all of the City's spending for efficiencies.

This is a new era in our state. Citizens have taken upon themselves the responsibility to fund a large portion of their local governments, without having the day-to-day working knowledge of all the functions within government. As a city council, we are convinced that voters will look to us for guidance when they make that decision. On behalf of the voters who have elected us to office, it is our intention to provide that guidance and to stand behind our conclusions.

Sincerely,

Redmond City Council

Redmond City Council

Public Hearings Held:

- 2005 – 2006 Budget and Capital Investment Program
- 2005 – 2010 Transportation Improvement Program - Adopted

Policy Decisions:

- Authorized Funds for the Grass Lawn Park Art Project
- Approved the Park Board's Recommendation to Re-Name Coast Guard Park to Sunset Gardens
- Approved the 2002- 2004 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Redmond Police Association
- Approved Salaries for Police Pay Plan "P" for 2002, 2003 and 2004
- Approved Implementation Agreements for Commercial Food Waste Pilot Project
- Approved the Stormwater Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program and Staffing
- Ratified 2003 Amendments to the King County Countywide Planning Policies
- Approved Amendments to the Chapter 9, Public Peace, Morals and Safety, of the Redmond Municipal Code to Conform to State Law
- Authorized the Temporary Lease of Property for Employee Parking During City Hall Construction
- Approved Performance Incentives for the Commute Trip Reduction Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation
- Approved the Application for Grant Funding to Assist with Property Acquisition for the Bear and Evans Creek Trail and Greenway Project
- Approved Minor Amendments to the Redmond Community Development Guide to Recodify Building and Construction Codes and Amend Impact Fees, Transportation Management Programs and Transportation Standards and Clearing, Grading and Stormwater Management Code
- Adopted the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan) Update
- Adopted a Resolution Supporting the Downtown Transit Center and Requesting Sound Transit to Redesignate Funds for the Design and Construction of the Center
- Adopted the Shoreline Master Plan
- Adopted Redmond Building and Fire Codes and Corresponding Fees
- Approved the Redmond Way Monopole Conditional Use Permit
- Authorized Agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation for Route 202 Widening, SR 520 to Sahalee Way Project
- Approved the Use of the Public Safety Building Replacement Fund for a Police Evidence/Vehicle Processing Area Project
- Approved an Interlocal Agreement with Sound Transit for Funding Transit Signal Priority Improvements
- Approved the Acquisition of Vacant Property at 18800 NE 115th Street
- Approved the Council's 2004 Retreat Report

Redmond City Council



Richard Cole



John Marchione



Nancy McCormick
President



Thomas Paine



John Resha



Jim Robinson



John "Pat" Vaché
Vice President